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By ALLEN C. CLARK

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WALTER LENOX, THE THIRTEENTH MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

By ALLEN C. CLARK.

(Read before the Society, May 16, 1916.)

"His honor, the Mayor," was Walter Lenox titled; he was the thirteenth in the mayoral line. It is not necessary to tax the imagination to create a personage to dignifiedly bow to the salutation; for Walter Lenox has a counterpart in the facial lineaments even to the cut of the beard in the novelist, Charles Dickens. Walter's American ancestry were father and grandsire. The primal ancestor came from Scotland and settled in Williamsburg, Virginia, at the time the seat of the royal government.

Walter Lenox, the grandfather, married Miss Carter, of Williamsburg. Of their children was Peter, born in the city named, 1771. The father lost most of his fortune consequent to the war of the American Revolution,[1] and Peter, about 1802, came to the federal seat of government to find his fortune. He married Miss Margaret Wilkinson; they had a family fortune of thirteen children.

Peter Lenox was the foreman and then the Clerk of Works at the President's House. He was the Clerk of Works[2] at the Capitol from October 31, 1817, to 1829. He had a lumber business and was early engaged in the

[1] Peter was ambitious of a liberal education. He had no patrimony. He acquired the means of support for a few years. He entered the public schools of Richmond. He was forced to relinquish his design because of feeble strength and engage in active employment.

[2] In the City Directory "Chief Carpenter."

building activities. The profit he progressively invested in realty and on the tax ledgers ultimately opposite his name were many squares and lots.

Peter Lenox was a lawmaker. Alternately and intermittently he sat in the local House of Lords and House of Commons. Of the First Chamber, 1804; of the Second Chamber, 1806, 1807; of the First, 1808; of the Second, 1810, 1811; of the First, 1812, 1813; of the Board of Aldermen, consecutively from 1826 to 1831, inclusive.

Peter Lenox laid aside the compass, the spirit-level and the saw, the emblems and implements of his peaceful crafts, and buckled on the sword when his country called for arms in 1812 and he was commissioned a Captain.

Peter Lenox lived until late in life on the south side of Maryland avenue near the Washington Bridge and at the corner of Tenth and E streets, northwest. He died at the first-named residence, Monday, December 3, 1832. He was accorded Masonic honors under the auspices of the Federal Lodge No. 1. Of him it is written: "By nature he was endowed with a high order of intellect, and had he been placed in circumstances favorable to its cultivation, he would have held a distinguished rank among the first men of our country. He had uncommon strength and precision of judgment; was prompt and energetic in action, and in every thing manifested decision of character. In all his transactions of life he sustained the character of a punctual, honest man." His portrait has him as a large man of intellectual caste, with the compass and the other instruments of his livelihood. His wife's portrait pictures her as a beautiful woman with a lovely child in arms—her thirteenth. His will, probated December 11, 1832, disposes of a large estate and attests his belief in

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Walter Lenox.

the advantages of a higher education in this provision: "It is my desire that my two sons, William A. and Walter, shall pursue their classical and other studies and receive the best Collegiate education that the Country can afford" and made a charge upon the estate for the education and a maintenance until twenty-one years of age.[3]

Walter Lenox was born in the city of Washington, August 17, 1817. He was a bachelor of arts, Yale, 1837. His name appears in the city directory of 1843 as a lawyer with an office at the south side of Louisiana avenue between Four and a Half and Sixth streets and another office at the corner of Tenth and C streets, east side. In the directories of 1846, 1850 and 1853, he is at the corner of Louisiana avenue and Sixth street. In the directories of 1858 and 1860, his office is at 49 Louisiana avenue and his residence 376 E street, north.

Says Douglass Zevely in "Old Residences about City Hall," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Vol. 7, p. 158:

> "Diagonally across from the police court (corner of Louisiana avenue, 6th and D streets) was where Walter Lenox lived for many years. . . . During some of the time he and Richard Wallach had a bachelor housekeeping home there.
>
> "The Lenox house was a plain brick dwelling with a large yard on the east side surrounded by a low stone wall which was quite well shaded by the large trees in the yard and I can distinctly remember how often that wall served as a resting place for many persons during summer days. During recent years buildings for stores and offices have been erected where the yard was formerly, and the house has been changed also for similar purposes, so that no trace of it is left."

I am told by a relative that Mr. Lenox gave pleasant ladies' parties when he and Mr. Wallach kept bachelors'

[3] Interred in Congressional Cemetery.

hall, that the house faced south, was built with small dark brick and provided with porticoes and was shaded by large trees.

> "With grave
> Aspect he rose, and in his rising seem'd
> A Pillar of State; deep as his front engraven
> Deliberation sat, and public Care;
> And princely counsel on his face shone
> Majestic."

That is Milton's statesman. Mr. Lenox was a statesman. He sat at a desk except when he was up to make or to debate a motion; to offer or to discuss a resolution. He had concern for the entire community and a particular care for his own constituency. Although the votes were counted and his reëlection was assured, he listened interestedly to the constituent who deemed himself the most qualified and most entitled to serve the city in a certain capacity for a certain compensation. Mr. Lenox was not like the politicians.

> "When they're afraid, they're wondrous good and free;
> But when they're safe they have no memory."
> —Sir R. Howard: Vestal Virgin.

Mr. Lenox was a Common Councilman, 1842 and 1843; and an Alderman, 1844 to 1849, inclusive. The last three years he was the presiding officer.

An "Old Member of the City Councils," June 1, 1850, pleads for Mr. Lenox's election to the Mayorship in the vein of Pitt, in his defense of the American colonies. "*Sir;*—the atrocious crime of being a young man, which the honorable gentleman has, with such spirit and decency, charged upon me, I shall not attempt to palliate nor deny—but . . ." But to the Old Member's pleading: "It is objected that Mr. Lenox is too young, but he has not been deemed too young by his associates in the Board of Aldermen, who have twice selected him as its President, which position itself, in certain con-

tingencies, imposed upon him the duties of Mayor. Let it not be forgotten that youth carries with it energy of character, and ambition to come up to the discharge of duty and obligation. It has the future to look to which, shutting out the past, provokes a generous effort to prove worthy of the confidence with which it may be honored. Having considered what is due to past services, and what may be expected from a generous ambition appreciating public confidence, I feel myself called upon to give my cordial support to Mr. Lenox."

Mr. Lenox was the logical inheritor of the mayoralty. Mr. Seaton had declined reëlection. Mr. Lenox was the President of the Board of Aldermen; he had assisted the mayor; he was of the same party. The contest was heated. Each voter knew that on his favorite depended solely the life of the city and his candidate's rivals were political quacks. The election was on Monday, June 3, 1850. The committee's count was

Jesse E. Dow	379	George Watterston	29
Roger C. Weightman	1,302	William Gunton	13
Walter Lenox	1,334		

Mr. Lenox was inaugurated the Monday following. His address was well received. The citizens who did not vote for Mr. Lenox accepted what they could not avoid and with the citizens who did vote for him, called upon him "to pay their respects and partake of his hospitality."

Mr. Lenox was of the Board of Managers of the Washington National Monument Society. He was an incorporator. His name is of the "Inscription on Copper Plate Covering Deposit-Recess in the Corner Stone of the Monument." With Gen. Archibald Henderson and Commodore M. F. Maury, U. S. N., he was of the Committee of Arrangement for the laying of the corner stone, Independence Day, 1848.

Robert C. Winthrop was the orator. In nineteen closely printed pages is the eloquent declamation.

"Proceed, then, fellow-citizens, with the work for which you have assembled! Lay the corner stone of a monument which shall adequately bespeak the gratitude of the whole American people to the illustrious Father of his Country! Build it to the skies; you can not outreach the loftiness of his principles! Found it upon the massive and eternal rocks; you can not make it more enduring than his fame! Construct it of the peerless Parian marble; you can not make it purer than his life! Exhaust upon it the rules and principles of ancient and of modern art; you can not make it more proportionate than his character!"

Other important parts of the proceedings on this memorable occasion have not so much emphatic mention, for instance, in the order of parade, the

Boston Light Guards, Captain Clark.

It was the only military organization from a distance. It was the escort of the orator of the day. That the Captain, Captain George Clark, Jun., was an uncle of mine, does not detract from his glory. The guards were a crack affair. That day, that red-hot day, up Pennsylvania avenue, in their beautiful uniforms with plumed shakos, evenly and proudly, marched the Guards. The Captain, at the head, covered with decoration and dust, his sword hand to shoulder, marched forward, and now and then, as all Captains do, marched backward with imminent risk of tripping up and stabbing himself.

On the national anniversary, 1850, was the second notable occasion. More than a thousand assembled on the awninged stage; of whom was the President of the United States, Cabinet Officers, Senators and Members of Congress and members of the Boards of Aldermen and Common Council.

"Walter Lenox, Esq., Mayor of the City, read the Declaration of Independence in a clear and impressive manner." The Hon. Henry S. Foote, of Mississippi, for an hour was the eloquent orator of the day.

Then the ceremony of raising to its proper position in the Monument the handsome block of marble presented by the Corporation of Washington. Gen. Walter Jones made the presentation in "an impromptu address of great power and beauty, which was admitted by all who heard it to be one of the most masterly extemporaneous efforts of that distinguished gentleman."

The reporter noticed that George W. P. Custis, Esq., delivered his address in "his usual and affecting manner" and that he "touchingly and delicately referred to a box containing earth from the great monumental mound in Cracow, in Poland, reared to the memory of the brave Kosciusko." Mr. Custis placed a part of this earth on the Washington block to enter into the cement which should bind it in the monument to the Pater Patriae.

Within a week of this anniversary, Zachary Taylor, the President, died. Mayor Lenox sent a message to the Councils "expressive of the high respect entertained for the character, both public and private, of the deceased," and issued a proclamation recommending that the citizens abstain from secular employment.

The exercises of Independence Day, 1851, are most memorable. The earlier procession and proceedings were connected with the Washington Monument. President Fillmore with characteristic dignity for the Board of Managers received the block of marble presented by the Sons of Temperance of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Gen. Walter Jones was the orator and advanced the claims of the temperance cause as one of the chief virtues of every patriotic, well-regulated community.

The second procession and proceedings were connected with the laying of the corner stone to the extension of the Capitol. In the large Council Chamber in the City Hall assembled the President of the United States, the Members of the Cabinet, Officers of the Army and Navy in full uniform, the Mayor and members of the Corporation, and various civil officers, to take their assigned places. The procession entered the north gate of the Capitol grounds and was drawn up in order around the excavation for the corner stone. The President of the United States, attended by the Mayor, and as many others as the limited space would accommodate, occupied the site of the contemplated edifice.

During the reign of Lenox, the daily newspapers were *The Daily Globe, Daily National Intelligencer, The Daily Republic, The Washington Union.* Some of these had weekly and semi-weekly editions. Of the weekly publications were *The Huntress,* edited and published by the virulent, Mrs. Anne Royal, and *The National Era,* by Gamaliel Bailey, in the cause of abolition.

The daily papers of Anno Domini 1916 circulated from metropolitan centers are no less anxious and alert than the weekly paper of the town to keep the readers informed of things of importance and nothing, so says B. P. Shillaber, the biographer of Mrs. Partington, as important as "the painting of a front door, or the setting of a pane of glass, or the laying of an egg" escapes; and a newspaper of the District of Columbia on Thanksgiving Day, 1915, in a late edition had the bulletin: "The White House turkey will be placed in the oven at 4.30 o'clock so that it may cook slowly."

The newspapers during Mr. Lenox's administration did not have as much paper as those of nowadays but

nevertheless were not neglectful of important news as illustrated in the *Daily National Intelligencer,* March 23, 1851: "The morning train of cars, which usually arrive in this city from Baltimore about 11 o'clock, did not reach the depot until one o'clock yesterday. We understand the detention was caused by the breaking of the engine when the train was about seven miles distant from Baltimore."

Literature was respected. Mrs. Southworth, of our midst, was the authoress whose works were most popular and welcome. When the weekly came with the next installment of thrill our mothers were not content until they had read it all, even if the teakettle cracked, the potatoes burned or the roast scorched. The *Daily National Intelligencer,* June 9, 1851, advises the public that "Mrs. Southworth, the authoress of "Retribution," "Shannondale," "The Deserted Wife," has a new work entitled "The Children of the Isle," which is said by the critics who have read it to be the best of her works.

The chief charitable organization was the Ladies' Union Benevolent Employment Society. It was nonsectarian. A call of The Committee of Gentlemen for the annual meeting to be held at Rev. John C. Smith's church, 9th street, November 15, 1850, gives the names of committeemen. Walter Lenox is chairman and with the others the most influential in the community selected without distinction of Christian creed. For the Society at Odd Fellows Hall, November 11, Wyman gave the proceeds of an exhibition. Prof. Wyman was a prestidigitator "most profound in his art" and his feats in legerdermain have never been excelled.

Naught of church history has come to me. I can have reason to think that all the sects were in harmonious rivalry to teach the first and great commandment and

the second like unto it—the love of God and the love of neighbor. I can believe there was a mutual helpfulness, at least, to the extent that mankind with its frailty will permit. Did not the Protestant preacher solicit of a Catholic priest a church donation and did not Father Matthew quickly reply: "What, a heretic ask a Catholic for a donation! No, I will do nothing of the sort; but here is ten dollars towards a pavement in front of your church so I will not get my boots muddy when I pass by it!"

I did find that an elder (Knapp, of Boston), of long prayer, says: "When Peter was endeavoring to walk upon the water to meet his Master, and was about sinking, had his supplications been so long as the introduction to one of our modern prayers, before he got through he would have been fifty feet under water."

The Adelphi Theatre was on the site of 458 and 460 Pennsylvania avenue. During the mayoral reign of Lenox many stage stars appeared in Washington. One at least twinkled here for the first time. The managers announced, November 8, 1850, the benefit of Mr. Junius Brutus Booth, the greatest American tragedian, in which the "First and Only Appearance of Mr. Edwin Booth." The review had "Mr. Edwin Booth, a youth of sixteen years, played the part of Hemeya in a very creditable manner, giving ample evidence that the mantle of the father will fall upon the son." This Booth engagement was succeeded, November 21, by that of Frank Chanfrau and Madame Albertine. In turn came Miss Fanny Wallack, December 2. "This evening the tragedy of 'Romeo and Juliet' will be performed at the Adelphi with a strong cast. The patrons of that little establishment will be pleased to learn that Miss Fanny Wallack will sustain the character of Juliet, in which she has been so eminently successful

in all the Northern cities. This young lady has passed the ordeal of criticism, having worked her way fairly to her present distinction in all the varied walks of the drama by close application and study. . . . By the way, we must not omit to mention that Miss Wallack is a native of this city, which is another inducement for receiving her with a full house." Early in 1851, she sailed for England. Miss Wallack (Mrs. Charles Moorehouse) in Edinburgh, Scotland, made her earthly exit, 1850. The great American actor, Edwin Forrest, appeared, May 24, 1852, as King Lear. During his engagement the prices of admission were advanced and the free list suspended.

Came Jenny Lind triumphantly in her first and farewell American tour when Mr. Lenox was Mayor. The out-vying homage paid to her by the writers made them seek in the dictionaries, the uncommonplace and in the books of poetry, the imagery. The admiration and adoration were worthily bestowed and had no taint of adulation, for her character was as beautiful as her talent was supreme.

In an incredibly short time was rebuilt the hall for her appearance in this city, where is now the National Theatre. It was the enterprise of two citizens, Edward D. Willard and John E. Reeside. December 11, 1850, was the announcement:

"Mademoiselle Jenny Lind
Will give her first Grand Concert in Washington, at the new National Hall, on Monday evening, December 16, 1850. The price of seats has been fixed at $7, $5, and $4."

Mdlle. Lind was a guest of The Willard. She was not as in other large cities the victim of rude curiosity. I give an excerpt from the account of the first concert by Gales and Seaton in *The Intelligencer,* although they did not surmount in superlatives the editorial of

Father Ritchie in *The Globe,* between whom and "the nightingale" was strong attachment.[4]

December 17, 1850. "Mad'lle Jenny Lind's Concert last night was attended by the largest, most brilliant, and certainly the most gratified audience which ever assembled at any public entertainment in this city. Every part of the spacious hall was occupied by eager auditors, and, high as anticipation had been raised by the superlative repute of the gifted maiden, we doubt if an individual of the numerous auditory had formed any adequate idea of the enchanting melody, the 'dulcet and harmonious breath' of the peerless songstress. . . . The audience commenced assembling as early as six o'clock, and when at last the appearance of Mad'lle Lind gave a reality the place of pent up expectation, she was greeted with a burst of applause which fairly shook the stout walls of the building. Silence at length restored"—and here the Editors got out their copy of Spencer's "Fairie Queen" and copied therefrom.[5]

[4] Signed her name Jennie Lind in letters to Thomas Ritchie.

[5] "Jenny Lind visited Washington during the winter of 1851, and sang in concert to a delighted audience. It chanced that on the evening of her appearance several members of the cabinet and Senate were the guests at dinner of Bodisco, the Russian minister, and the concert was half over when Webster and the other members of the party entered the hall. After the applause which greeted their appearance had subsided the second part of the concert was opened by Miss Lind with 'Hail! Columbia.' Webster, deeply moved by this patriotic air, arose at the close of the first verse, and added his rich, sonorous voice to the chorus. Without avail, his wife, who sat behind him, pulled at his coat-tail to make him sit down or stop singing. The volunteer basso joined in at the close of each verse, and none could tell whether Lind, Webster or the audience was most delighted. As the last notes of the song died away Webster arose, hat in hand, and made a profound bow to the singer. Jenny Lind, blushing at the honor, courtesied to the floor, while the audience applauded to the echo. Webster, not to be outdone in politeness, bowed again; Lind recourtesied; the house again applauded; and this was repeated nine times."—Galusha A. Grow, in the *Saturday Evening Post.*

The enthusiasm at the second (Wednesday) concert equalled that of the first.

Two bus lines educated the passengers in art as they carried them luxuriously:

September 19, 1850. "Pennsylvania avenue witnessed yesterday a splendid turn-out, in a new and beautiful omnibus for the Union Line of the enterprising Messrs. Reiside & Vanderwerken, and called the Henry Clay. This superb carriage bears an excellent portrait of Mr. Clay on each panel, and its interior frieze is ornamental with tasteful oil paintings."

The next day. "Another New Omnibus arrived in this city yesterday by the cars for the Citizen's Line. It is a handsome and commodious vehicle, and it is named the Joseph Gales."

On August 8, 1850, Mr. Michael Brady "was honored by a visit at his gallery from President Fillmore, of whom he made three of his most brilliant and life-like daguerreotype likenesses."

Mr. Lenox was during the mayoralty, ex-officio, a regent of the Smithsonian Institution.

The *Daily National Intelligencer* says: "The New Year (1851) opened yesterday with one of the brightest of days, which imparted a heartier gladness to the joyous feelings of the season."

And, 1852: "The *First of January* was indeed a day worthy of a new year. The snows and clouds and gloom of the preceding week disappeared with the old year, and the new one emerged in brightness and beauty, imparting cheerfulness to the thousands of citizens, strangers; and visiters who during the day circulated from one residence to another, exchanging the good wishes and enjoying the hospitalities of the day. Every where might be observed evidences of the keen relish with which the day was enjoyed by our cheerful,

well-to-do population, and by the troops of well-dressed strangers of both sexes."

Nature smiled approval always, so far as appears, on the popular and praiseworthy custom. The citizens called on the chief citizen of the corporation, chief by their choice, cordially shook his hand, sampled his punch and to be sure their praise of it was deserved, sampled it a few times more and to further prove their goodwill, even his forgiving opponents, helped heartily to clear the table of everything except dishes and cloth.

The coming of Louis Kossuth to this country created a furore. He, his lady and his suite arrived in the city, Sunday, December 30, 1851, and made their quarters at Brown's hotel. Three or four hundred persons assembled in front of the hotel and the Hungarian patriot from the portico made an acknowledgment. Then the callers came along, the Secretary of State, Maj. Col. Scott, Senator Cass and Senator Douglass among them. At noon, the next day, M. Kossuth made an informal call upon the President. Members of Congress of both branches gave him a dinner, January 7, 1852. A resolution inviting him to the floors of the Congress caused a cyclone of debate.

The Board of Aldermen, January 5: "Resolved, That we have heard with the most lively satisfaction of the arrival of Louis Kossuth in the metropolis of the nation. That we hail his advent as that of one deeply imbued with principles of liberty, and bid him a cordial and hearty welcome to our city." As in Washington, everywhere, M. Kossuth received the open hand. He returned with pockets bulging with resolutions and nothing substantial which might be inconsistent with international non-interference.[6]

[6] "After Jenny Lind came Louis Kossuth. . . . No foreigner except Lafayette has received such a welcome in the United States, and Kossuth was worthy of all the honor that was heaped upon him. His handsome

During the Lenox mayoral term the feature in construction was the eastern part of the Patent Office, its pure white marble and its correct Corinthian architecture making an attractive addition to the governmental buildings; and in destruction was the disastrous fire at the Library of Congress, consuming thirty-five thousand of the more choice volumes together with precious manuscripts, paintings, maps, charts, medals and statuary.[7] The financial feature was the Columbia Bank located on the north side of Pennsylvania avenue between 4½ and 6th streets—Athenaeum Building[8] (R. P. Stowe, President). It was of the wild cat variety. Before the National Bank Act, 1863, institutions and individuals under the easy laws let loose large amounts of bank notes which represented no property other than a sign, a counter and a few chairs. The more attractive the notes, the more easy were they negotiable for something. And so the notes were designed with pictures and sometimes colored to be more negotiable; some had a cat with a strong face, others a dog of unusual shade. And thus came to be money of different names, Wild Cat, Red Dog and Blue Pup, but different no other way. It being one kind of money, one name came to stand for all, Wild Cat. If a customer offered in payment, say a fifty dollar note, the merchant scanned the bi-weekly currency bulletin to see what he was getting; and if the note was worth what it purported, the

presence, the marble-like paleness of his complexion, caused by hardship while in prison, and the picturesqueness of his foreign dress captivated the popular fancy; while, more than all, his wonderful eloquence and the fervor with which he pleaded his country's cause left an influence upon the hearts of those who heard him that nothing could destroy.'' —Galusha A. Grow, in the *Saturday Evening Post.*

[7] The previous fires were the War Office, the library part of the Capitol, 1825, the Treasury and the general Post Office.

[8] 463 and 465 Pennsylvania Ave. Afterwards Bell's Photographic Galleries.

purchaser was invited to enlarge his purchase; if his change was, say thirty dollars, then it was the purchaser's turn to take the bulletin from his pocket and see what he was getting. This erudition is not mine. I am repeating what Mr. James F. Hood, of this city, an eminent authority upon affairs financial, has told me.

I asked an estimable citizen his recollection of Mr. Lenox and he replied that in 1849 Mr. Lenox from the platform called: "'Master James Croggon'—that I came forth and received a silver medal about the size of the top of a tomato can."

During Mr. Lenox's administration the public school census was twenty-three schools, thirty-three teachers and twenty-eight hundred pupils, August, 1851. He was deeply concerned with the education of the youth. He gave greater attention to the public school question than to any other. While an Alderman and of the committee to draft a basis for the charter which was adopted, on his motion was inserted a provision for the "establishment and support of common schools." And to quote from a public letter: "Mr. Lenox was one of the few who surmounting the prejudices then existing to free schools, and the sordid objections that our Corporation would be burdened with an intolerable expense, put forward every energy, until finally the pressure of public opinion forced upon the city authorities the adoption of measures of which we are now reaping the benefit."

In those days were at the termination of the scholastic year public examinations followed by public presentation of prizes. Mr. Lenox has said in different words that prizes, presentations and parades—theatrical flourishes—were for the purpose of creating and continuing interest on the part of the pupils and of the public, the best, for want of better, means available.

I am about to give extracts from the *Daily National Intelligencer* of the school doings; meeting the charge of unimportant detail, with the reply that as hardly anything concerns the people more than the public system of instruction, the history of it from the inception is of corresponding value.

The public school pupils had met, Tuesday, July 30, 1850, in front of the City Hall to form for a procession to the Capitol. The weather was inclement. "The Mayor spoke encouragingly to the pupils, and, on putting the question whether the procession should be postponed indefinitely or until to-morrow, the latter was carried without a dissenting voice, and by an acclamation of juvenile spirits that made the City Hall and its lofty piazza reverberate with the glad sound." The weather of Wednesday was favorable. The procession was attended by the trustees of the public schools, the secretary, the Mayor and the Boards of Aldermen and Common Council. The line extended from the City Hall to the Capitol or to even a greater distance. It was a rare spectacle, two thousand children, boys and girls, some in uniform, in well-arrangement, marching orderly and gracefully along the side pavement to the inspiring strains of the marine band and spread of rich banners while greeted by thousands of spectators who lined the avenue or occupied every vantage of door and window.

Upon the platform with other notables was the Hon. Horace Mann, of Massachusetts, the accomplished advocate of the public school system. The invocation was by the Rev. Ralph R. Gurley, Chaplain of the House of Representatives. The prefatory remarks were by Mr. Lenox, the Mayor. The address was by the Hon. Joseph R. Chandler, M.C., of Philadelphia, educator and editor, whose earnestness and eloquence,

satisfied all he was the right orator for the occasion. The selected singers from the girls in their silvery sweet voices added a patriotic touch with The Star Spangled Banner.

The distribution of the honors was by the President, Mr. Fillmore. The Mayor read the names of the boys and girls to be honored, they mounted the platform, and had the high honor of receiving the medals from the President, "who, in placing them around the neck of each recipient, spoke to them all the while with kindness, affability, and encouragement."

Of the school examinations only reference to the Fourth District School will be made. The male department, August, 1851, was examined in the presence of the Mayor and members of the Board of Common Council and Board of School Trustees. The exhibition the boys made of their progress was quite satisfactory, and, in some respects, especially that of acquaintance with the history of their country, they elicited hearty encomiums from the visitors. The female department was examined the day before. It was observed that were present his honor, the Mayor, members of the Boards of Aldermen and Common Council, and of the Board of School Trustees, and teachers of public and private schools, with a goodly array of visitors of both sexes. The exercises of the classes examined were really very gratifying and satisfactory.

The pupils of the public schools of the First District, August 4, 1851, accompanied by their teachers and the sub-board, made a long procession with banners and martial music. After marching along the principal thoroughfares of the First Ward, the pretty pageant assembled in the Foundry Church. Walter Lenox, Esq., Mayor, introduced the speaker, Mr. Zalmon Richards. Then the presentation of rewards by

the Mayor, and then, by him, an address. The medals were silver of fancy pattern and the one hundred and thirty diplomas, beautifully executed, represented the illustrious Washington in the capacity of surveyor, standing with his implements on the spur of the Alleghany mountains.

On the immediately succeeding days were similar exercises in the second, third and fourth districts. Distinguished citizens made well-considered and well-received addresses; and, his honor, the Mayor, conferred with courtliness the awards.

In these times the pupils have a vacation of three months. In the Lenox times the vacation was less than a month, for, says the newspaper on Monday, September 1, 1851; "Today will the youth of our city, happy in their advantages beyond the lot of former times be called upon to resume the scholastic harness which usage and the reason of things permit them to drop during the enervating heat of the month that has passed. Today will hundreds—nay, *thousands,* of the men and women of the next age—turn their steps, satchel in hand, to the numerous retreats scattered all over our city, provided by private enterprise or public beneficence for their mental improvement and moral edification."

The editorial from which the above is taken has: "We are glad to perceive that the crowning feature of our school system is not likely to be lost sight of; we refer to the establishment of an efficient High School. This we have always looked upon as the key of the arch, the point to which all below it may and will look up. Whilst we would by no means counsel an unwise haste, we should equally deprecate a timid delay." All those interested in the public education were in accord about the need of a High School but its creation was delayed either wisely or timidly.

The *Daily National Intelligencer,* May 21, 1852:

"Yesterday, one of the sweetest days of the season, was a proud one for the Public Schools of this city. Much as our citizens had seen and known of their schools, and long and faithfully as some of them had labored to give enlargement and permanency to the system of public school instruction, they could hardly have been prepared for such a creditable display as was exhibited yesterday.

"The various schools, numbering about thirty, embracing some twenty-five hundred pupils, met at the City Hall at 11 o'clock A. M. when they were joined by the Mayor of the city, the Boards of Aldermen and Common Council, the Trustees of the Schools, &c., and attended by several bands of music, proceeded to the Capitol, for the purpose of presenting to Congress a petition asking its aid in behalf of the public schools of the city.

"From the City Hall along the route of the procession our streets presented an animating spectacle. Hundreds upon hundreds of our citizens were out to witness and to welcome the pageant. Each of the schools, under the direction of its teacher, bore a standard or banner.

"On arriving at the Capitol an immense multitude was found already upon the ground. The schools were formed upon the beautiful green on the east front of the Capitol, and occupied every part of the center, from the fountain to Washington's statue.

"A committee of one pupil from each school having been appointed to perform the office of presenting the petition, headed by a band of music, and attended by Mr. Lenox, the Mayor, as President of the Board of Trustees, and several other persons connected with the schools, they proceeded to the east portico, where the Hon. Mr. Hunter, of the Senate and the Hon. Mr. Chandler, of the House of Representatives, were present for the purpose of receiving the petition.

"At this point the scene was beautiful beyond description. Members of the Senate and House of Representatives, Officers of the City Government, Trustees of the Schools, Representatives of the Press, citizens and strangers, all looked upon the scene with delight.

"After the performance of the national air by the band, Mr. Lenox addressed Messrs. Hunter and Chandler, and informed them that the children before them, as a committee from each of the public schools, were present to place in their hands a memorial asking the aid of Congress in behalf of the Public Schools of this City, and to request them to have the same presented to Congress. He said he would forbear to offer any remarks in favor of the objects of the memorial, as the children before them were both the witnesses and the advocates in this noble cause."

Of the various communications, the only extract is from an annual message:

MAYOR'S OFFICE, August 25, 1851.

Although I feel very confident that the establishment of a high school would elevate the character of our public schools, and advance the standard of education generally in our city, I do not deem it proper, in view of other controlling considerations, to recommend it at this time. As I remarked in a former communication, "it is our duty to diffuse the elements of education among the many, before we attempt to confer upon a few the benefits of a higher standard." This great want of the many has not yet, as is testified to by the subboards of each district, been fully satisfied. There is also an absolute necessity for a new school-house in the first district, and for more comfortable furniture in several of the school-rooms. In view of the important influence that the school-room and its accommodations exercise over the health, mental improvement, and moral feelings of the pupils, I most earnestly commend these objects to your immediate attention.

Permit me to solicit from you an annual appropriation for a few years of $1,000, for the purposes of establishing a school library in each district. The suggestion requires no argument to set forth or sustain its merits, but certainly it is sufficient to state the fact that there is no library in our city adapted to the mental and moral wants of the pupils of our schools, public or private. With the knowledge, then, of the serious injury we are daily inflicting upon the youth of our

city and society in withholding indispensable sources of mental and moral support, let us promptly apply the remedy.

Believing that the question of judicial reform properly belongs to the Corporate authorities, as the exponent of the wants of our people, and the medium of communication with Congress, I desire to present the subject before you as prominently as its importance demands. A formal argument may be well dispensed with, as the necessity of this measure is acknowledged and demanded by an almost unanimous public opinion, springing from no temporary impulses, but from the pressure of evils felt for years. The very origin and progressive history of our statute law could not fail to produce a most imperfect incongruous system, whose practical workings would be but faithful revelations of its character. Judge Butler, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, in a report made to the Senate last winter says: "The great body of the statutes in force in this District are the old laws of Maryland, passed prior to the cession, and many of them nearly a century before the event. The legislation of Congress *has not been directed by any system whatever,* but has been irregular and impulsive, striking at some special point, without regard to collateral consequences." Mr. John Marbury, of Georgetown, and of high authority upon this subject, in a letter to Judge Butler uses the following language: "Except so far as they have been changed by acts of Congress (and the instances are very few), the laws of this District are now what the laws of Maryland were more than fifty years past. *The changes made by Congress, so far from improving, have made our code of law insufferable.* Such changes have been made sometimes to answer particular objects, without regard to the interest of the people of the District." The language of Mr. Marbury, one of the oldest and worthiest members of the District bar, pronouncing the present system "unsufferable," will not appear harsh to those of you having had experience, as jurors or suitors, of its ruinous delays and burdensome expenses.

If, then, we are satisfied of the necessity of this measure, and that it is demanded by public opinion, let us earnestly

present it to Congress upon its own broad merits; let us reclaim it from association with any particular plan or personal controversy; let us not ask for or willingly receive any temporary or partial relief; let us firmly insist, not only upon a revision and codification of our laws, but, if necessary, a change of the essential system itself.

In concluding this communication, I cannot forbear to congratulate you upon the present condition, advantages, and future prospects of our city. It enjoys a degree of health which compares most favorably with the healthiest cities of the world. It is exempt in a great measure from a vicious and disorderly population; its police has been augmented in numbers and improved in efficiency. It possesses a well established system of public schools, which is largely distributing its healthful currents throughout the community. The Smithsonian Institution is rapidly accomplishing the catholic conception of its noble founder, accumulating and dispensing, through lectures and other means, the richest treasures of science and learning. The presence of the high officers of the General Government and the annual assembling of Congress exercises a favorable influence upon its population, and contribute to give dignity and refinement to its society. The extent and value of the improvements by the Corporation within the last few years, as also those by private individuals, exceeding in elegance and cost those of any preceding year, manifest its general prosperity and onward progress.

Mr. Lenox was a Whig. The Democratic party was dominant. The election for Mayor was on June 7, 1852. Mr. Lenox received 1,496 votes; John W. Maury, 2,389.

At the ratification meeting of the Whig candidate for President, Gen. Scott, June 30, 1852, Mr. Lenox presided. His spirited address is reported in the party organ, faithfully parenthesized with "applause."

Mr. Lenox and Miss Rachel Ludlow married in New York, January, 1855. Richard Wallach, Ashton White and other friends accompanied Mr. Lenox to the place

of ceremony. Mrs. Lenox died in New York, July, 1856; the babe ten days later. Mrs. Lenox is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, New York. Her brother, William H. Ludlow, was Speaker of the Legislative Assembly at Albany, N. Y.

Mr. Lenox was not married sufficiently long to entitle himself to be embraced in that to-be-praised class, the married man. We must consign him to the other, the parasitic class, the bachelor. If he had been long married he might have been a better man, if that were possible, coming under the chaste influence of woman. He was of that class that flits from flower to flower, buzzing merrily all the while. He was of the free and careless that know naught of the burdens and sorrows. Single blessedness or bachelorhood is a luxury and poetically has been compared to champagne and gasoline. It is righteously proposed to levy a tax on this species of selfishness without the bachelor can claim exemption by proving he supports a widowed mother or unwedded sisters.

Lenox and Wallach, strong in friendship, were antagonistic in their attitude towards the rebellion. Lenox joined the Confederacy and was at Richmond assistant to Robert Ould, Agent of Exchange, C. S. A. Mr. Lenox came to Washington, 1863, to adjust the affairs of a deceased aunt. He was warned by Gen. Winfield Scott, as a friend, "If you do not stop talking I will have to arrest you." The warning did not influence Mr. Lenox's freeness of speech. He was imprisoned at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Md., twenty months or until the termination of the war.

Mr. Lenox was five feet eleven. His complexion was light, very fair. He was strong, physically. He had an impressive manner and was a good public speaker. He had not the superfluities of Mr. Wallach. He was

Peter Lenox.

great for quelling disturbances and riots, and was not afraid to speak or to show himself.

Miss Virginia Miller says: "Mr. Lenox was, I know, numbered one of the brilliant lawyers of Washington and was the friend and associate of my uncle, Col. Charles Lee Jones, together with Mr. Henry May and Mr. Barton Key. They were older men than my uncle but together they were the leaders of fashion and society."

The contrasting severity and sympathy of Mr. Stanton, the Secretary of War, and of Mr. Lincoln, the President, has illustration in this incident. Mrs. Wheeler, the niece of Mr. Lenox, wore a path in her frequent calls upon Mr. Stanton, importuning him for a permit to see her uncle at Fort McHenry. Discouraged by repeated rebuff she called upon Mr. Lincoln. He readily signed his card granting the permission. The General (William Walton Morris) at the fort doubted the genuineness but gave the fair relatives of Mr. Lenox the benefit of the doubt and accorded them the height of courtesy.[9]

[9] "Mt. Lake Park, Md., July 15, 1916.

"*Mr. Clark,*

. . . . . .

"My aunt (Mrs. Julia Lenox Keep) lived to be 49; died in 1861, in war times. She died without will and the fortune was divided between my mother, Mrs. Wheeler and Walter Lenox. My aunt, Mrs. Wheeler, was very thorough and found that to attend to the interest properly she must be permitted to see Mr. Lenox, then a political prisoner at Fort McHenry. Sec. Stanton as you know was very stringent in his regulations but my aunt was fearless and pressed her case again and again. The Secretary himself was very positive. 'I tell you, Mrs. Wheeler, you cannot see Mr. Lenox. We will telegraph at any time to know his health &c. but we have strict orders not to allow any one to visit Mr. Lenox.' He was allowed no modern literature, so he called for Scott's commentaries on the bible. Well my aunt was not abashed after her failure but decided to try a bigger man than Stanton, to try Mr. Lincoln. So I accompanied her—she made an impressive story to the

Mr. Lenox's health was impaired by the prison confinement. He died Thursday, July 16, 1874, at 2.15 A. M. The funeral services were held at the residence of his nephew, Thomas P. Simpson, 1005 E street, northwest. The Rev. Robert Wesley Black, of Wesley Chapel, conducted the services. He "paid a deserved compliment to the life and character of the deceased." The attendants were numerous, including members of the bar, friends and relatives. The pall-bearers were Messrs. Richard Wallach, Marshall Brown, George S. Gideon, Peter F. Bacon, Richard H. Laskey, Walter D. Davidge, Dr. J. W. Jayne and Dr. John M. Brodhead. The interment was in the Rock Creek Cemetery. A modest monument marks the site where dissolves to dust the mortal tenement.

What I should have paid in the beginning, I now do at the end, my obligation for data, to Miss Margaret K. Simpson and Mr. Glenn Brown.

The presentation of the portrait of Walter Lenox, the gift of Miss Margaret K. Simpson to the Lenox Building, was made at the building, the afternoon of June 13, 1916. All the pupils were assembled in the entrance hall. Mr. Henry P. Blair, the President of the Board of Education, directed the exercises and made an address. Miss Thelma Fryer, a pupil, released the flag which draped the portrait. Mr. Allen C. Clark told of

President. He listened so quietly and called for a small gentleman's card and wrote

"'Permit these Ladies to visit Mr. Lenox.

A. Lincoln.'

"We made two or three visits, Gen. Morris was in command and was so agreeable. My aunt received from my uncle some important explanation and saved paying some judgments that were already paid. I hope I have not tired you but I want to thank you over again for your extreme kindness and your excellence in treating the history of Mr. Lenox.

"Very kindly,

"M. K. Simpson."

the life of Mr. Lenox and presented the portrait. Mr. Henry F. Lowe, the principal, made the address of acceptance and Mr. Hosmer M. Johnson, the Supervising Principal of the Ninth (School) Division, was also a speaker. The pupils made a demonstration of approval, to which Miss Simpson made acknowledgment. Present were Mr. Glenn Brown, President of the Washington Society of Fine Arts, and Mrs. Brown and the Rev. Cornelius S. Abbott. The children enlivened the ceremonies by singing patriotic airs.

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